



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 5a

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*Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: February 10, 2012

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: AB 819 (Wiecowski) Bicycle Lanes

**Background**

AB 819 requires the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to establish procedures for cities, counties and local agencies to request approval to use nonstandard planning, design and construction features in the construction of bikeways and roadways where bicycle travel is permitted.

**Recommendation: Support**

**Discussion**

Current law requires all city, county, regional, or other local agencies, in the development and operation of bikeways, to follow the design criteria, standards, and traffic control devices developed by Caltrans, a strict standard that does not apply to local streets and roads owned by local government. According to the California Bicycle Coalition, the bill's sponsor, local agencies are required to go through a time-consuming and therefore expensive experimentation process in the case of traffic control devices, or are expressly prohibited from roadway designs that have a proven track record outside of California, but are not reflected in the state's design manual and guidelines. AB 819 seeks to set up clear procedures for local governments to request approval to deploy creative roadway designs and nonstandard signs, markers and traffic control devices for bicycle facilities.

In view of the bill's general goal of encouraging greater flexibility and creativity in the development of roadway facilities that make bicycling a safer and more attractive mode of travel, we recommend a support position on AB 819.

**Known Positions**

**Support**

California Bicycle Coalition (sponsor)  
California Association of Bicycle Organizations

**Oppose**

None known

  
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Steve Heminger